



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City Housing Authority to Hold Public Meetings as Part of Choice Neighborhood Grant Application

JERSEY CITY – The **Jersey City Housing Authority** will hold **two public meetings** as part of its 2013 application for a \$30 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development **Choice Neighborhood Grant** for redevelopment of the Montgomery Gardens Housing Complex and neighborhood.

The meetings will be held at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23rd and Thursday, August 15th at St. Peter's University MacMahon Student Center**, Glenwood Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard.

The public is invited to attend the meetings, learn about the grant application and process, and share feedback. HUD is making three grant awards available nationwide, and therefore the application is extremely competitive.

The Choice Neighborhood grant plan must include 435 public housing or Section 8 units to replace the former units at Montgomery Gardens and an additional 436 housing units. All of the units must be energy efficient and able to withstand "Superstorms," handicap accessible, built on streets that are walkable or bikeable, and must provide internet service for all units.

The JCHA grant application must also show how the institution will work with a federally qualified health care center to provide easier access to affordable healthcare for residents, help teens and adults find employment, and improve the quality of local schools and academic support for youth.

The grant application must also include a program to improve the surrounding neighborhood in the following ways:

- Lower the vacancy rate and maintain the quality of all housing in the neighborhood
- Ensure that the neighborhood has a variety of services such as groceries, banks, health clinics, clothing stores, restaurants, etc.
- Improve the neighborhood schools so that student test scores meet or exceed the State average
- Improve access to high-quality pre-K programs
- Improve local parks and recreational facilities in the neighborhood
- Ensure quality public transportation and walking and biking paths
- Ensure access to local jobs

In 2012, the JCHA was one of nine finalists nationwide for four Choice Neighborhood grants, but unfortunately was not selected.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for the City of Jersey City, at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////

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